

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Le Van Ba who passed away on Saturday, November 23rd, 2010.

Mr. Le and his family left Vietnam and came to the United States in 1979, and he risked everything for a chance to live freely and provide better opportunities for his family.

In 1981, Mr. Le and his family bought their first catering truck and began serving sandwiches in the community.

In 1983, Mr. Le founded Lee's Sandwiches and today, Lee's Sandwiches is among the top 50 largest bakeries in the U.S., employing thousands of workers in northern and southern California and across the country.

He was a community leader of his Hoa Hao Buddhist church and the An Giang Association of Northern California.

He and his family have given back to the community, assisted victims of 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, the floods in Vietnam, the South Asia tsunami and other local charities.

Throughout Orange County, he made it a point to donate food and sponsor community and nonprofit events annually.

Today, I commend this man and urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Le's extraordinary lifetime achievements.

I want to offer my sincere sympathy to his wife, Nguyen Thi Hanh, his family, friends, and loved ones.